

**Amendments To the Claims**

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Newly presented): A method of screening peptides, oligopeptides and polypeptides to determine which are substrates for nitric oxide synthase (NOS) comprising: adding a potential substrate to a NOS; and determining whether the potential substrate is converted to nitric oxide by the NOS; said potential substrate comprising a peptide, oligopeptide or a polypeptide having one or more arginine groups; whereby the tertiary structure of the potential substrate is such that one or more arginine groups are available to the NOS.

Claim 21 (Newly presented): The method of claim 20 whereby the NOS is nNOS-II.

Claim 22 (Newly presented): The method of claim 20 that is conducted *in vitro*.

Claim 23 (Newly presented): A method of screening peptides, oligopeptides and polypeptides to determine which are capable of inhibiting nitric oxide synthase (NOS) activity comprising: contacting a potential NOS inhibitor to a NOS; and determining whether the potential inhibitor blocks the synthesis of nitric oxide by NOS; said potential inhibitor comprising a peptide, oligopeptide or a polypeptide having one or more arginine groups; whereby the tertiary structure of the potential inhibitor is such that one or more arginine groups are available to the NOS.

Claim 24 (Newly presented): The method of claim 23 whereby the NOS is nNOS-II.

Claim 25 (Newly presented): The method of claim 23 that is conducted *in vitro*.